Real Estate Attorney Highland Park IL

Chicago Probate Lawyer

Leon J. Teichner is a Chicago Probate Lawyer specializing in probate law which includes probate and wills; estate planning and revocable trusts; healthcare power of attorney; real estate transactions including closings, development, leases, tax exchanges and zoning; business and corporate representation including contracts, business restructuring, acquisitions and partnership disputes.

I am 64 years old; graduate of DePaul Law School in 1974; worked for the Juvenile Defender Program and U.S. Attorney's Office while in law school; worked for Chicago Title Insurance Company as title examiner and condominium examiner in 1974 after graduation; worked as an associate in medium sized law firms until opening my own practice in 1981.

Experienced in probate matters; contested probate proceedings;guardianships; real estate law, closings and condominium law; business structures ; business disputes and general practice matters.

Our emphasis is on personal service and relationships.

Probate Administration

Today the probate process is a court-supervised process that is designed to sort out the transfer of a person's property at death. Property subject to the probate process is that owned by a person at death, which does not pass to others by designation or ownership (i.e. life insurance policies and "payable on death" bank accounts). A common expression you may have heard is "probating a will." This describes the process by which a person shows the court that the decedent (the person who died) followed all legal formalities in drafting his or her will. What is often taught about the probate process is how to avoid it. The movement to avoid probate is primarily motivated by the desire to avoid probate fees. It is, in fact, quite possible to avoid the probate process completely. There are three primary ways to avoid probate and its protections: joint ownership with the right of survivorship, gifts, and revocable trusts. The probate system, however, exists for the protection of all the parties involved and the focus of this article is what occurs in probate.

What Happens in Probate in Chicago?

The probate process may be contested or uncontested. Most contested issues generally arise in the probate process because a disgruntled heir is seeking a larger share of the decedent's property than that he or she actually received. Arguments often raised include: the decedent may have been improperly influenced in making gifts.

Estate Planning

Estate planning is one of the most important steps any person can take to make sure that their final property and health care wishes are honored, and that loved ones are provided for in their absence. Though often overlooked or put off in favor of more immediate concerns, a comprehensive estate plan can resolve a number of legal questions that arise whenever anyone dies: What is the state of their financial affairs? What real and personal property do they own? Who gets what? Does a personal guardian need to be appointed to care for minor children? How much tax will need to be paid in order to transfer property ownership? What funeral arrangements are appropriate?

What is an "Estate"?

Your "estate" consists of all property owned by you at the time of your death, including:

- Real estate
- Bank accounts
- Stocks and other securities,
- Life insurance policies,
- Personal property such as automobiles, jewelry, and artwork.

For more information please visit

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